

1 I claim:

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3       **1.** A support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
4 bulbs comprising;

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6 an elongated, hollow tube having opposite ends, an outer wall and  
7 an inner volume;

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9 at least one ventilation opening extending through said outer wall  
10 and permitting air flow between said inner volume of said tube  
11 and the surrounding environment for cooling of a fluorescent  
12 light bulb held therewithin;

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14 end cap means mounted on said opposite ends of said tube, said end  
15 cap means adapted to engage opposite ends of a fluorescent  
16 light bulb and support the fluorescent light bulb within said  
17 inner volume of said tube free of contact with said outer wall  
18 of said tube; and

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20 said tube constructed of a generally rigid, at least partially  
21 translucent material such that light emitted by a fluorescent  
22 light bulb held within said tube generally radiates through  
23 said outer wall of said tube into the surrounding environment.

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25       **2.** The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
26 bulbs of claim **1** wherein said hollow tube is generally cylindrical  
27 in shape.

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1       **3.**   The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
2 bulbs of claim **1** wherein said ventilation opening comprises a  
3 longitudinally extended slot formed in said outer wall of said  
4 hollow tube.

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6       **4.**   The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
7 bulbs of claim **1** wherein said ventilation opening comprises a  
8 plurality of holes generally spaced along said hollow tube and  
9 extending through said outer wall.

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11       **5.**   The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
12 bulbs of claim **1** wherein said end cap means each comprise a  
13 generally cylindrical plug having an external diameter  
14 approximately equal to or slightly greater than the internal  
15 diameter of said hollow tube, said generally cylindrical plug being  
16 generally hollow and having an electrode opening extending  
17 generally coaxially therethrough, said generally cylindrical plug  
18 further including a outer flange operative to prevent said end cap  
19 means from overextending into said hollow tube.

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21       **6.**   The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
22 bulbs of claim **1** further comprising a wire channel formed in the  
23 outer surface of said outer wall of said hollow tube and extending  
24 along the length of said hollow tube, said wire channel operative  
25 to provide a channel for an electrode wire projecting from a  
26 fluorescent bulb housed within said hollow tube to run back along  
27 said hollow tube yet be safely retained adjacent said hollow tube  
28 to generally prevent accidental damage to an electrode wire.

1        7.    The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
2 bulbs of claim 1 further comprising mounting end cap means adapted  
3 to fit over said end cap means and on to said hollow tube  
4 facilitating mounting of said hollow tube within a fluorescent  
5 light fixture.

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1       8.   A support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
2 bulbs comprising;  
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4 an elongated, hollow tube having opposite ends, an outer wall and  
5 an inner volume;  
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7 at least one ventilation opening extending through said outer wall  
8 and permitting air flow between said inner volume of said tube  
9 and the surrounding environment for cooling of a fluorescent  
10 light bulb held therewithin;  
11  
12 end cap means mounted on said opposite ends of said tube, said end  
13 cap means adapted to engage opposite ends of a fluorescent  
14 light bulb and support the fluorescent light bulb within said  
15 inner volume of said tube free of contact with said outer wall  
16 of said tube;  
17  
18 mounting end cap means adapted to fit over said end cap means and  
19 on to said hollow tube facilitating mounting of said hollow  
20 tube within a fluorescent light fixture; and  
21  
22 said tube constructed of a generally rigid, at least partially  
23 translucent material such that light emitted by a fluorescent  
24 light bulb held within said tube generally radiates through  
25 said outer wall of said tube into the surrounding environment.  
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27       9.   The support and enclosure structure for fluorescent light  
28 bulbs of claim 8 wherein said mounting end caps each further

1 comprise at least one mounting pin and at least one wire slot  
2 formed in the side wall of said mounting end cap, said wire slot  
3 operative to permit electrical wires to extend therethrough to  
4 connect to the fluorescent light bulb held within said tube.

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